# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1550
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
REVAMPING PASSPORTS ISSUING PROCEDURE
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) the number of passport offices in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to relax the procedure with a view to expedite the issue of passport and to reduce the time taken therein;

(c) if so, the guidelines issued to the passport offices of the State in the above matter; and

(d) the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

a) There is one passport office in Karnataka, situated at Bangalore.

b,c&d) Simplification and streamlining of procedure for issuance of passport is an ongoing process. Among the measures taken are: (a) computerisation of processing, (b) simplification of the passport application form, (c) decentralisation of passport services to enable submission of completed application at designated Speed Post Centres and at the district level,(d) introduction of Tatkal Scheme for issue of out of turn passport of short validity in urgent cases and (e) rationalisation of police verification procedures which includes exemption from the requirement of prior police verification in the case of minors(below 15 years) and senior citizens(75 years and above). The Governmenthas also recently constituted a committee to review the passport issue system aimed at simplifying the process of issue of passports.